Beaver Fire Management Unit

The Beaver FMU is 69,665 acres in size. The majority of lands are in the Late Successional Reserve (LSR) management area and private property. The following table displays the LMP management area acres within the Beaver FMU.

The FMU is primarily within Federal Direct Protection Area (DPA); with a small portion CALFIRE DPA responsibility. The CALFIRE portion is located on the eastside of the fireshed in the upper Hungry Creek area The CALFIRE protection area of this fireshed is under full suppression management. The table below displays

Fire Protection Responsibility	Acres	Percent of FMU
Klamath National Forest	66,476	95%
CalFire (Siskiyou Ranger Unit)	3,189	5%
Wildland Urban Interface	**Acres**	**Percent of FMU**
Community At Risk	425	1%
Defense Zone	5,370	8%
Threat Zone	26,919	39%

3.2.2 Guidance

Management Area	Acres	Percent of FMU
Late Successional Reserve	29,369	42%
RNA / SIA / CUA	358	1%
Riparian Reserves	4,066	6%
Retention VQO	116	<1%
Partial Retention VQO	3,532	5%
General Forest	6,794	10%
No Data	412	<1%
Private Land (inside forest boundary)	21,902	31%
Private Land (outside forest boundary)	3,152	5%

Management Area 5 - Special Habitat

This FMU contains a substantial portion of the Mt. Ashland LSR and 8 Northern Spotted Owl activity centers.

Description

This management area includes the following types of special habitat: Late-Successional Reserves, which are designed to provide for the viability needs of all late-successional species in an ecosystem approach; other lands are designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Forest as habitat needed to support the

recovery of Federally listed T&E wildlife populations and habitat for the Sensitive plant, *Calochortus persistens* (Siskiyou mariposa lily).

Each of the T&E species requires different habitat. When the habitat of these species overlap, the management priority shall be placed on the species with the most specialized habitat needs (that is, the rarest occurring habitat).

Management actions proposed for these areas will be consistent with the recommendations for habitat management provided in the USFWS Recovery Plans for these species and the Forest Service direction applicable to the recovery plan.

Late Successional Reserves

Late-Successional Reserves are designed to provide for the viability needs of all late-successional species in an ecosystem approach. Meet the habitat requirements as outlined in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* signed April 13, 1994 and the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* dated February 1994 (FSEIS).

Management Goals

The objective of LSRs is to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and “old growth” forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and "old growth"-related species including the northern spotted owl. These reserves are designed to maintain a functional, interacting, late-successional and "old growth" forest ecosystem.

Desired Future Condition

The characteristics of individual areas vary according to the dominant vegetative species, site class, topography and other site factors. Well-dispersed and continuous areas of multi-layered forests with high quality habitat characteristics and attributes are common: (1) under optimum conditions on north slopes, (2) at high elevations, and (3) in cool, moist areas. The overstory trees are large diameter, tall and have obvious signs of decadence. Some are broken-topped, have mistletoe, or have platforms of branches capable of holding organic materials that serve as a nest. Snags are common and fallen trees visible on the ground, providing for adequate prey populations. Within true fir habitats or where hardwoods occur, mid-seral stage forested areas provide suitable habitat as well. Although overstory trees are smaller and stands are less dense, important structural elements, such as snags and nesting platforms, are present. South slopes and drier areas are more open due to frequent natural fires.

Fire Management Standards & Guidelines

MA5-35 Each LSR will be included in fire management planning as part of watershed analysis. Fire suppression in LSRs will utilize minimum impact suppression methods in accordance with guidelines for reducing risks of large-scale disturbances. Plans for wildfire suppression will emphasize maintaining late-successional habitat. During actual fire suppression activities, fire managers will consult with resource specialists (for example, botanists, fisheries and wildlife biologists, hydrologists) familiar with the area, these standards and guidelines and their objectives, to assure that habitat damage is minimized. Until a fire management plan is completed for LSRs, suppress wildfire to avoid loss of habitat in order to maintain future management options.

MA5-36 - In LSRs, a specific fire management plan will be prepared prior to any habitat manipulation activities. This plan, prepared during watershed analysis or as an element of province-level planning or a LSR assessment, should specify how hazard reduction and other prescribed fire applications will meet the objectives of the LSR.

Until the plan is approved, proposed activities will be subject to review by REO. REO may develop additional guidelines that would exempt some activities from review. In all LSRs, watershed analysis will provide information to determine the amount of CWD to be retained when applying prescribed fire.

MA5-37 - In LSRs, the goal of wildfire suppression is to limit the size of all fires. When watershed analysis, province-level planning, or a LSR assessment is completed, some natural fires may be allowed to burn under prescribed conditions. Rapidly extinguishing smoldering CWD and duff should be considered to preserve these ecosystem elements.

MA5-38 - Utilize an aggressive prescribed fire program to maintain long-term habitat quality and ecological processes within LSRs once LSR assessments and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis are completed and site-specific decisions are made. Specific fire prescriptions shall be used until PNF can be effectively used. The use of PNF is outlined in the Wilderness Fire Management S&Gs. Those S&Gs also shall apply to LSRs.

MA5-39 - Report wildfires within activity centers to the appropriate District and/or Forest biologist. The biologist shall determine the need to contact the USFWS. Report fires that escape initial attack to the USFWS. Motorized and heavy equipment may be permitted by the Incident Commander to assure habitat protection.

MA5-40 - Wildfire prevention should be critical to habitat maintenance. During critical fire danger periods, increased prevention efforts should be undertaken, especially in high use recreation areas within LSRs and in areas adjacent to populated areas.

Special Interest Areas

There are four SIAs within the Beaver FMU. The acres listed in the table do not account for the total acres in SIA designation, since the majority of the SIAs are overlaid by the LSR management designation. The SIAs in this FMU include the 800 acres Mt Ashland/Siskiyou Peak Botanical Area, Observation Point Botanical Area (500 acres), Red Mountain Botanical Area (400 acres) and a portion of the Condrey Mountain Bluschist Geologic Area. A more detailed discussion of the unique features found in these SIAs can be found in ***Section 3.2.3.4 Resources.***

Description

Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are sites designated for recreational experiences where education and interpretation of unique or special natural resource values are emphasized. Highlighted are botanical and geologic features to increase Forest visitor appreciation of resource values and natural diversity within the Forest.

For a detailed listing of all the SIAs, refer to Table 4-19, Acres Allocated to Special Interest Areas in the Forest Plan (page 4-117).

Management Goals

Manage for ecological processes and the unique features for which the area was designated.

Promote public use, education, interpretation and enjoyment of the special interest values of the area when such activities do not harm the values for which the area was designated.

Desired Future Condition

The vegetative, geologic and other natural features are enhanced to emphasize the unique resource for which the area was designated. Few signs of management activities are present, other than to provide public access and accommodations. Minor vegetative clearing is evident to allow

Forest visitors to see vistas and utilize the areas. Educational or interpretive information on the ecological or scenic values of the area is provided. Sites are developed to various degrees. Sites range from no trails or facilities (fostering an educational, primitive recreational experience) to development of facilities such as parking

lots, restrooms, information displays, boardwalks, or trails suitable for heavy visitor use. Visitors are directed to SIAs through maps, signs, and other publicity as appropriate.

Standards and Guidelines

MA7-20 Manage prescribed natural fire, prescribed fire, and biomass utilization to maintain the ecological processes within the SIA. Protect all facilities and developments.

Retention

This prescription applies to those areas identified as having a Retention VQO. Refer to the Forest VQO map (in the Final EIS map packet). These areas are scattered throughout the Forest. They typically are found: (1) in the foreground of high visual sensitivity roads, trails, etc., (2) in the foreground or middle ground of areas with Variety Class A scenery or (3) areas seen from local communities (USDA Agriculture Handbook #462, National Forest Landscape Management, Vol. 2, Chapter 1). These roads and trails typically receive high levels of public use, or access recreation sites or areas with visually pleasing scenery.

Management Goals

Provide a level of attractive, forested scenery by maintaining the areas in a natural or natural-appearing condition. Manage human activities so they are subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Also, manage human activities so they are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.

Manage for a programmed, sustained harvest of wood products in areas that are capable, available, and suitable for timber management.

Maintain stand health, as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage.

Desired Future Condition

The signs of management activities are not apparent. Views from visually important roads and trails appear forested and provide a natural or natural-appearing forest.

Vegetative or ground-disturbing management activities that have been implemented repeat form, line, color, and texture that represent characteristics of the landscape. Changes in their qualities of size, amount, intensity, direction, pattern, etc. are not evident to the average Forest visitor.

Fire Management Standards & Guidelines

MA11-14 - Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post-harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

MA11-15 - Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

Partial Retention

This prescription applies to those areas identified with a Partial Retention VQO. It encompasses 188,500 acres. Refer to the Forest VQO map (in the Final EIS map packet). These areas typically are either in the foreground of moderate visual sensitivity roads, trails, etc., or the middleground of high sensitivity roads.

Scattered throughout the Forest, these areas are primarily in the middle distances (1/2 to 3 miles) from selected roads and trails.

Management Goal

Provide an attractive, forested landscape where management activities remain visually subordinate to the character of the landscape. Manage human activities so they are subordinate to the character of the landscape.

Maintain stand health as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage.

Desired Future Condition

Areas managed to meet a Partial Retention VQO may show evidence of management activities but are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape in form, line, color, or texture of landscape elements. Views from visually important roads and trails appear forested and provide a nearly natural looking landscape.

Lands capable of growing coniferous vegetation are forested.

Fire Management Standards & Guidelines

MA15-15 - Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

MA15-16 - Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

General Forest

Lands that are capable, available, and suitable to be managed for a host of resource conditions, including structural component and commercial outputs. They currently support a variety of vegetation including shrubs, hardwood species, and various tree species in varying sizes and densities. They are areas where timber outputs, consistent with Forest-wide management goals, are of a high priority.

Management Goals

Provide a programmed, non-declining flow of timber products, sustainable through time. These levels may vary from year to year, based on ecological processes. Maintain conifer stocking levels and high growth rates commensurate with the capability of the site to produce wood fiber. Intensively manage young regenerated stands to maximize growth potential.

Maintain stand health, as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage. Emphasize salvage and restoration from catastrophic events. Reforest capable, but currently non-stocked, lands.

Emulate ecological processes and stand and landscape patterns where possible. Within harvest units, maintain appropriate structure, composition, and ecological functioning of the area.

Provide for snags and hardwood habitat to help maintain viable populations of wildlife species that require these structural components.

Meet the VQOs. Achieve less modified visual conditions when possible.

Desired Future Condition

The mosaic of healthy forest stands is comprised of a variety of vegetative species. The composition of individual stands varies considerably depending on forest type and seral stage development. Although openings with hardwoods, shrubs, grasses, and forbs are apparent, forest stands consist primarily of conifers. In some areas, the conifer component of the vegetation is sparse (due to vegetative manipulations or natural conditions). All areas maintain some structural components of older stands. Some areas support mature forest stands. The oldest stands are between 80 and 120 years old. Generally, this portion of the forest has younger trees than the surrounding areas. Stand sizes vary with topography and the landscape pattern of surrounding areas.

Habitat for species, which use early and mid-seral stages, is abundant.

Fire Management Standards & Guidelines

MA17-15 - Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

MA17-16 - Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

3.2.3 Characteristics

Agency Administrator for FMU lands:

- Happy Camp District Ranger for federal lands
- CALFIRE Siskiyou Ranger Chief for private property outside KNF boundary's

Adjacent cooperators and major stakeholders:

- Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (Siskiyou Mtn. Ranger District)
- Fruit Growers Supply Co. and Timber Products major stakeholders

3.2.3.1 Safety

The following bullet items are Beaver FMU specific safety considerations. More information is provided concerning these items in the write-ups following.

- Cottonwood Creek, road 0J002, narrow weight limit bridge
- Sinking roadway, 48N08, closed off
- Railroad flat car bridge to a structure on Old Beaver Creek road
- Rattlesnakes, Poison Oak, Stinging Insects
- Potential Marijuana Gardens
- Narrow, Mountainous Roadways
- Military Training Route VR 1251

Major access points into the fireshed are from paved roads. Highway 96, along the Klamath River, is the access from the south. From highway 96 to the west fork of Beaver Creek is a paved, two lane road, a distance of approximately five miles. After this point, roads are gravel and dirt. The other main access points would be from Interstate 5. Turning off at the Hilt, CA. exit will access the eastern portion of the fireshed, and there is a paved road leading to the ski park on Mt. Ashland that exits near the top of the Siskiyou Summit.

The fireshed is split by the California/Oregon border, with approximately 22,000 acres in Oregon. This state boundary is also a meridian change between the Mt. Diablo and Willamette meridians. This influences legal descriptions, so care and awareness needs to be taken of this fact. The Oregon land base is predominately federally owned, while the California portion is checker boarded with every other section privately owned. The majority of this private property in California is owned by two land management companies; Michigan California Lumber Co. (locally operated as Timber Products with an office in Yreka) and Fruit Growers Supply Co., with an office in Hilt.

The fireshed has an extensive network of forest service and old logging roads, especially in the checker board ownership pattern in California, reflecting an industrial forest appearance to the landscape. Most of these roads are in good to moderate condition, with many of the roads on the private timber company holdings not having posted numbers and having company locked gates on them. Contact information is listed below for Fruit Growers Supply Co. and Timber Products to gain access into these privately owned sections of land.

Older roads may require vegetation brushing, but most may be accessed by type 3 Engines. These are typical, mountainous roads which are narrow, and normal precautions should be taken. Most downhill sides of roads are steep, with long drop-offs. Turnouts are available, but on a limited bases for passing. During times of heavy or lengthy rain, roads may be slick or impassable due to muddy driving conditions or debris slides. (See Oak Knoll Dispatch Map for locations).

It should be noted that access through the Hilt area, with travel towards Hungry Creek saddle on what is signed as the 11 road, is influenced by a narrow, weight limit bridge located on the county road (0J002) crossing Cottonwood Creek. Heavy equipment, such as lowboys and water tenders, need to travel on what is called the haul road, which is located on Fruit Growers property and has its intersection with the county road directly in front of the Fruit Growers office in Hilt. Upon request and need, this gate will be opened and left open if it is currently closed. Contact numbers are listed under key contacts in this document.

In the North Hungry Creek drainage an illegal mining operation has undermined a portion of road 48N08, due to the roadway sinking and settling this road has been closed off with barricades and has been determined to be unsafe for travel. This would be in section 23, T48N and R8W. The upper end of 48N08 can still be accessed from road 41S06.

One of the structures up Old Beaver Creek road, is located on the east side of the creek, access is across a railroad flatcar bridge, since this bridge has had no engineering design to determine a weight limit, caution should be exercised if considering taking heavy equipment across (more than pick-up traffic). This is approximately two miles up from the mouth of the creek on a non-system road, that is signed as Old Beaver Creek road in section 31, T47N, R8W.

While numerous old mines dot the landscape, no known hazards are associated with them, old horizontal mine shafts are evident on some sites.

Military Training Route VR 1251 crosses through the FMU. This is a military flight route and can be deconflicted through the Yreka Interagency Command Center.

Other safety concerns in the fireshed would include the presence of rattlesnakes, poison oak (under approximately 3,500 feet in elevation), and stinging insects, such as yellow jacket hornets, bees, and wasps; all of these are common in this area.

Also the potential exists to have marijuana gardens anywhere in the fireshed. Historically they have been discovered and eradicated in this FMU.

3.2.3.2 Physical

The Beaver Fire Management Unit encompasses the entire Beaver Creek watershed, from 7,533 foot Mt. Ashland in the north, to its confluence with the Klamath River at Highway 96 at 1,700 feet, for a total of 69,665 acres

The Federal DPA is under the jurisdiction of the District Ranger located in Happy Camp, who is the Agency Administrator for this land base. Federal fire protection duties are supervised by Klamath NF

Division One, who works out of the Oak Knoll Work Center in Klamath River. CALFIRE protection is administered by the Siskiyou Ranger Unit headquartered in Yreka.

Adjacent and assisting operators to this fireshed include the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (Siskiyou Mtn. Ranger District), to the north and west, CALFIRE to the east. The Fruit Growers Supply Co. and Timber Products (MichCal) are major stakeholders inside the fireshed. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) may have an interest, in that their DPA lands are not too far outside the fireshed boundaries in the Oregon portion of the land base.

Beaver Creek, with its main tributaries, the west fork and Hungry Creek, make up the drainage in the fireshed. For clarification, Beaver Creek, by place name, is formed at the confluence of Cow and Grouse Creeks, so in following Beaver Creek itself upstream from its mouth, it does not exist as a place name on the map from this point upstream, this apparently is a result of crossing state lines in this area.

Topographically the fireshed is fairly heavily dissected by drainages and is somewhat typical of the regional area. While not as extreme in its relief, as seen on the Westside of the Klamath National Forest, what sets it apart is the extensive road system, allowing for good and reasonable access into almost all parts of the fireshed.

3.2.3.3 Biological

A large part of the Beaver FMU contains the Mt. Ashland LSR. Most of the remnant late-successional stands occur in small patches (typically between 1 and 25 acres) and are not widely distributed. Much of the intervening forest is composed of plantations and early-and mid-successional stands that have regenerated following the railroad logging era. Many of these stands exhibit high stand density (500-900 trees per acre), small average DBH (6”- 9”), and little understory development. Larger, more contiguous patches of late-successional forest exist at higher elevation portions of the mixed conifer zone and true fir zones. Currently the MT. Ashland LSR contains only 30% late-successional forest.

Mt. Ashland/Siskiyou Peak Botanical Area
This 800 acre area is about 6 miles west of Interstate 5 at the Siskiyou Summit. It is located along the Siskiyou Crest Zone, next to Mt. Ashland Ski Area on the Rogue River National Forest. The soils are of decomposed granite and support a subalpine flora. The area is dominated by open glades and rocky brush fields. Mt. Ashland, the highest peak on the Siskiyou Crest Zone (7533 ft), lies at the northeast end of this botanical area. Siskiyou Peak, about 2 miles southwest of Mt. Ashland, supports 1 of only 3 known populations of *Tauschia howellii* (Howell's umbrellawort) on the forest. This area, along with the rest of the Siskiyou Crest Zone, supports large native grassland. The most notable grass species in the area is *Festuca viridula* (Greenleaf Fescue), which forms pure stands in several areas.

Observation Point Botanical Area
This 500 acre is located along the Siskiyou Crest Zone, about 8 miles southwest of Mt. Ashland. This area includes part of Dutchman Peak and is next to two botanical areas on the Rogue River National Forest. It ranges in elevation from 5,700 to 7,400 feet and has a complex geology of peridotite mixed granitic and metasedimentary rock. The subalpine flora has several species. Over 170 species of plants can be found in this area, an example of the high degree of plant species diversity in the crest zone.

Red Mountain Botanical Area
Located within the Siskiyou Crest Zone, this 400 acre area is about 1 ½ miles southwest of Siskiyou Peak. Dominated by peridotite soils and rock outcrops, it is forested with Jeffery Pine and several serpentine endemics. The area also contains a large stand of the native bunchgrass red fescue (Festuca rubra).

Condrey Mountain Blueschist Geologic Area

This SIA is an example of rock formed at very high temperature and pressure in the Klamath Mountains.

3.2.3.4 Resources

- 25-30 structures in and adjacent to the FMU
- Mt. Ashland ski area and communications site
- Pacific Crest Trail w/Grouse Gap shelter
- Several Special Interest areas
- Staffed KNF lookout
- Grazing Allotments
- Two KNF campgrounds
- Genetic Tree Site

The Beaver FMU has approximately 25-30 structures located in and immediately adjacent to it. These range from year-round residences, cabins, federally owned and ski park facilities. The full-time occupied residences are located along the first 3-4 miles of Beaver Creek, from its confluence with the Klamath River to Dutch Creek, and are in close proximity to Beaver Creek itself. Generally they are located in the canyon bottom and therefore at the base of slopes. These are fairly well defensible and largely have good ingress and egress, as they sit on or close to the paved two lane road that extends up to the West Fork. There are four homes located on Old Beaver Creek road, which is a dead-end; this is a gravel road that lies between the main, paved road, and Beaver Creek. One of the structures up Old Beaver Creek road, is located on the east side of the creek, access is across a railroad flatcar bridge, since this bridge has had no engineering design to determine a weight limit, caution should be exercised if considering taking heavy equipment across (more than pick-up traffic).

Upslope structures of concern, if they were to be occupied at the time or structure protection planned, would be primarily the Condrey Ranch, in the Round Mountain area, Section 36, T47N, R9W (contact the Taylor's at 530 477-9882 or 627-3165 , and the Mayflower Ranch, located up Hungry Creek in Nicklwaite Creek at Section 34, T46N, R8W. Both of these structure group areas are isolated with poor access that present potential serious safety issues to fire fighting resources due to inadequate safety areas.

There are three cabins located in close proximity to the Beaver Creek Education Center up Beaver Creek, just below the Oregon/California border. These are upstream from the Ed. Center, with two cabins on the main road and one cabin across the creek from these two cabins, located in a timbered flat between Cow and Grouse Creeks, this cabin is not visible from the main road and is accessed from a dirt road located immediately on the other side of the bridge crossing Cow Creek (Beaver Creek). The Beaver Creek Education Center is a federally owned site which is under a special use permit to the Yreka Union School District; see key contacts for additional information.

There is a small cabin structure located in Section 8, T41S, R1E owned by Roger Caswell (541 821-0357), this is near the four corners area. There is a cabin type structure also located in the Mt. Ashland area, possibly Section 28, T40S, R1E. Neither of these two structures have been site visited, so less information is available.

Several recreational sites exist in the Beaver FMU; there are two campgrounds that provide minimal service. Beaver Creek campground is located along the paved road downstream of the West Fork confluence. It is between the road and Beaver Creek. The other campground is located just to the west of the Mt. Ashland Ski Park in the Siskiyou Crest area adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), and is located in an open, alpine meadow setting. Both of these sites have a small number of campsites, and do not offer water or electricity, with just campsite and vault toilet features.

Also located in the Crest area near Mt. Ashland and to the west of the campground is the Grouse Gap Shelter, set in the glade area of the Crest. It is located on the PCT and is used by hikers and horseback riders for camping, and skiers as a warming hut during the winter.

Located on top of Mt. Ashland is a large communications site with a domed weather radar structure that is visible for miles. Just below this site to the east is the ski park facility, while officially located outside the watershed, it sits immediately on the border of the fireshed unit. Additionally, there are several structures located on the ski park road that are on the border also, but would be values at risk of any wildfire burning in their vicinity.

Reference the attached structure map for a visual aid concerning locations of structures in this FMU. Additional structure mapping and reference material is located at the Oak Knoll Work Center fire office.

The Klamath NF maintains a staffed lookout on Buckhorn Bally. A Forest Service employee staffs Buckhorn Lookout during the fire season. An evacuation plan has been prepared for Buckhorn Lookout and is provided below.

Evacuation Instruction – Buckhorn Lookout

A. If it appears that an evacuation from the lookout may be necessary start preparation early:

1. Maintain radio communication with YICC (Dispatch).
2. Shut off propane at tanks
3. Gather lookout documentation & Items
4. Review the trigger points map & descriptions below.
5. Keep this plan and a forest map at hand.

B. When ordered to evacuate the lookout:

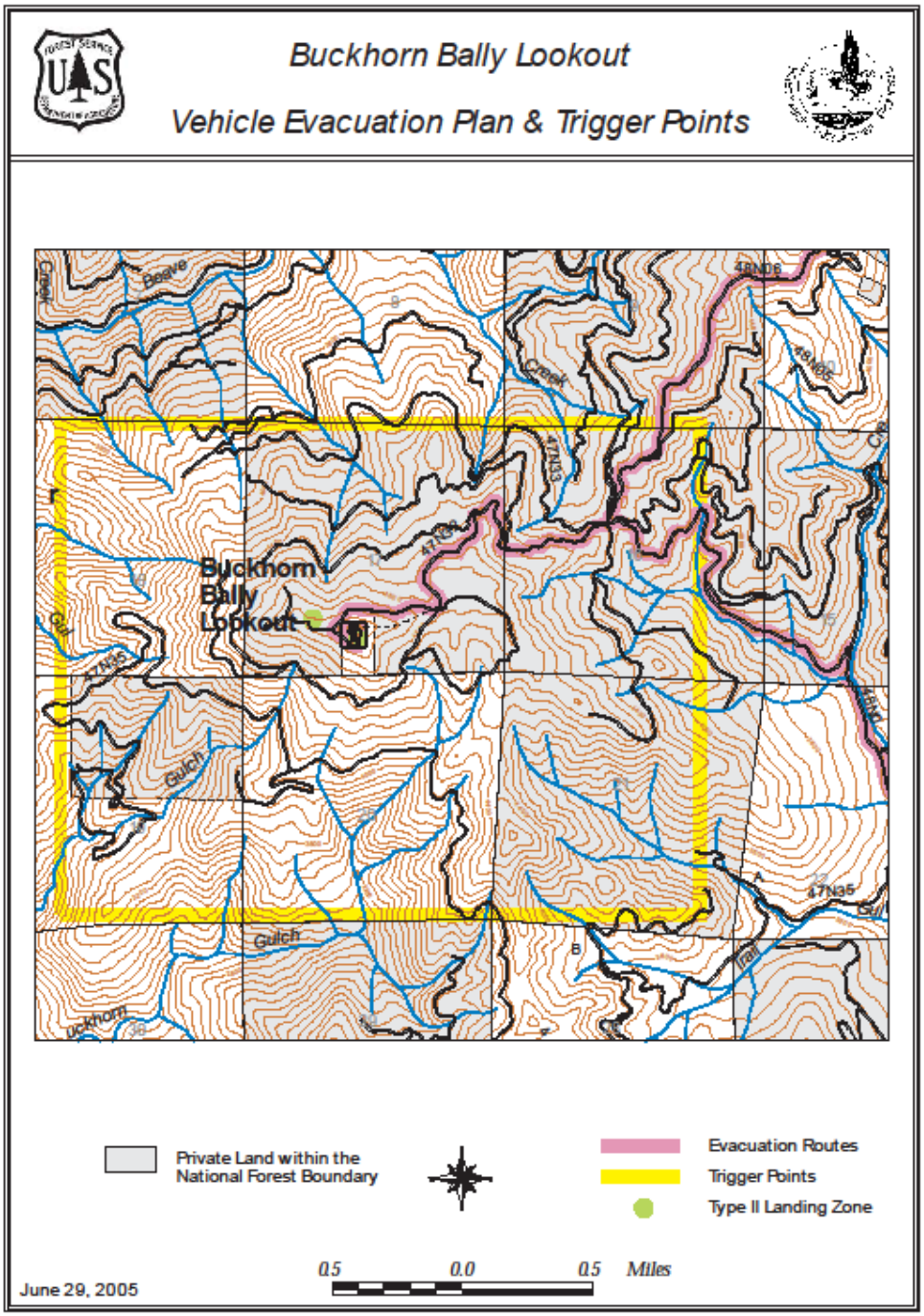
1. Close shutters and secure the tower
2. Inform Dispatch:
    a. That you are evacuating now.
    b. What route you intend to take.
    c. What your destination is.
    d. What your estimated time of arrival at destination is.

C. Aerial Evacuation:

If road access has been or is expected to be cut off before a safe ground based evacuation can be completed; Lookout personnel can be evacuated by helicopter
Buckhorn Lookout has two suitable helicopter landing sites:

1. At the lookout if the flagpole has been taken down (10-15 minute process)
   N 41º55.169 / W 122º47.864
2. A 10 minute walk to helispot at N 41º55.190 / W 122º48.000

D. Trigger point <u>map</u> showing LZs & escape routes (see below).



Siskiyou Crest Zone Scenic Area

The Siskiyou Crest Zone provides some of the highest, easily accessible viewpoints on the Forest. A 47-mile long area along the crest road provides distant views of California and Oregon landmarks. Several landmarks are visible including Pilot Rock, Mt. Bachelor to the north, Mt. Mcloughlin to the north east, and Mt. Shasta and the Marble Mountains to the south. Within the 15,000 acre area is an exceptional diversity of plant species and features, such as large meadows, rock outcrops and high-elevation forest stands. Recreational opportunities within the area include hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail, two-and-four wheel drive roads and cross-country skiing.

Pacific Crest Trail

The Pacific Crest Trail runs along the entire length of the fireshed on the Siskiyou crest. It crisscrosses between the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Klamath National Forest. It runs through or is adjacent to many of the Special Interest Areas located on the crest.

Key Contacts

Fire Officials:

1. CAL Fire: contact YICC (530) 842-7066
2. Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest: (541) 618-2200
   - -Applegate Office (541) 899-3816
   - -Ashland Office (541) 552-2604
3. Oregon Department of Forestry: (541) 664-1213
4. Klamath River Volunteer Fire Department
   - -Janet Jones (Chief) (530) 496-3361
5. Colestin Rural Fire District (541) 488-1768
   - -Steve Avgeris (Chief) cell (541) 821-5832
6. Hilt Volunteers
   - - Andy Herskind (530) 475-3400
   - - Jim Stewart (541) 482-4889

Private Parties/Companies:

1. Fruit Growers Supply Co.: (530) 475-3453
   - -Terry Salvestro (Regional Manager) (530) 598-4860
2. Timber Products: (530) 842-2310
   - -Mark Fleming (530) 598-0807
3. Beaver Creek Education Center
   - -Rick Meredith (530) 842-6155 ex 303 or (530) 842-2521
4. Caltrans: (530) 842-2723
5. Klamath River Fire Safe Council 465-2411

Grazing Allotments

The following tables are allotment descriptions and permittee contact information for active Oak Knoll allotments that may have livestock within the Beaver FMU as of 2010. As cattle have a tendency to drift, adjacent allotment information is provided. You can also contact Stephanie McMorris, KNF Range Specialist, at 530-468-1226 or 530-598-9330, and she can pass on fire information to the Permittees.

Allotment Descriptions

Active Allotments/ Permittees	Acres	Location	On/Off Dates
Dry Lake *Hagedorn, Hammond,* *R. Rainey*	41,511	**General Area**: Doggett Creek and Jayne's Canyon Drainage **Boundary**: Condrey Mt. East along the Siskiyou Crest to Wards Gap. Follows West Beaver/Beaver Creek South to Hwy 96. Follows Hwy 96 West to Oak Bar. North back up to Condrey Mtn.	4/15-10/15
East Beaver *Lemos,* *Hagedorn*	67,062	**General Area**: Beaver Creek and Lumgrey/Empire Creek Drainages **Boundary:** Mouth of Beaver Creek North following West Fork Beaver Creek to Wards Gap. NE along the Siskiyou Crest to Siskiyou Peak. South to Shaft Rock and then South to Ditch Creek. Follows Hwy 96 West to Beaver Creek Rd.	4/1-10/31
Horse Creek *G. Rainey,* *R. Rainey*	37,057	**General Area**: Horse Creek, Middle Creek, and Buckhorn Creek drainages **Boundary**: Copper Butte along the Siskiyou Crest to Condrey Mtn. South to Hwy 96. Follows Hwy 96 West past Horse Creek and then follows O'Neill Ridge. Turns South up through Seiad Low Gap back to Copper Butte.	4/15-10/15

Cattle are turned out in the spring and stay in the lower elevations until June or July. Then they drift or are driven up to the higher ranges for the summer months. Throughout the season the permittee checks on the cattle, herds them to other areas, and replenishes salt licks. Some cattle start to make their way home in the fall and the remaining cattle are rounded up by the permittees starting in early October.

Permittee Contact Information

Permittee Name	Permittee Phone	Permittee Address	Allotment(s)
Hagedorn, Harvey	459-3843	7124 Ager Road Montague, CA 96064	Dry Lake, East Beaver
Hammond Ranch (Clyde)	467-5224	1220 N Hwy 3 Etna, CA 96027	Dry Lake
Lemos, Edward & Jan	475-3633	18600 Cottonwood Ck. Rd. Hornbrook, CA 96044	Ash Creek, Hornbrook, East Beaver
Rainey, Gary	496-3283	1930 Horse Ck. Rd. Horse Creek, CA 96045	Horse Creek
Rainey, Robert Jr	496-3362	1115 Horse Ck. Rd. Horse Creek, CA 96045	Horse Creek, Dry Lake

Grazing Infrastructure

Improvements related to these grazing allotments, which could be considered values at risk, are two known corrals in the Beaver Creek FMU. One is located adjacent to the Beaver Creek road (40S15) above the Beaver Creek and Hungry Creek confluence, Section 28, T48N R8W; the other is along 41S15, Section 15 T41S R1W. Both are wooden pole structures.

There is a buck and pole drift fence, built with grant monies, on private property located on Sterling Mountain, Section 19, T48N R8W, a portion of this is visible from 41S15.

Genetic Tree Site

Seed Orchard and Gene Conservation Plantation	Lat.	Long	Location	Elevation-Ft.	Ownership
Cinnabar-private land	**41 58.003**	**122 53.51**	**T48N R09W Sec 33**	**4,200**	**FGS**

This tree site is owned by Fruit Growers Supply Company but is a valuable investment that would need protection.

Incident Facilities and Support

The Beaver FMU does not have any areas large enough to support a base camp, while spike camps can be located anywhere; the local areas used for an incident base on recent incidents are the Klamath River Community Hall and the Klamath River School. Both of these have limitations and lend themselves more to smaller incident size. Also used recently, or that should be considered, would be the Collier Rest Area on I-5 or the Siskiyou County Fairgrounds in Yreka, these areas offer much better logistical support locations.

Helibase considerations should be the Siskiyou County airport for type 1 helicopters and perhaps the Scott Valley Helibase for type 2's. Both of these are within reasonable flight times and offer better support facilities than anything in the local area.

With the high road density in the FMU, helispot needs would be at a minimum, with rotor wing use mostly being confined to external applications. A command helispot for recon use is available at the Oak Knoll Work Center. Water access for helicopter bucket operations is very limited in the fireshed, depending on incident location, the Klamath River is used or the old mill pond in the Hilt area.

Water sources are fairly common in the FMU with the road system being used extensively for logging, waterholes for road watering were developed as the road building progressed, some of these are older and may need maintenance. The "best of the best" of these water sources are located on the Oak Knoll fire dispatch map and a table exists showing road numbers, legals, and a lat/long for each one. However many drainage crossings lend themselves to short-term development on an as needed basis.

The Klamath River Fire Safe Council has installed two water tanks totaling 20,000 gallons along the main Beaver Creek road, up from the mouth approximately 3 miles at T47N, R8W, and Section 30. This water is for fire suppression and has a pull in area off the main road with a hydrant for apparatus to draw water from. They have a volume pump stored down at the private residence that is used to pump from Beaver Creek to refill the tanks.

3.2.4 FMU Fire Environment

3.2.4.1 Fire Behavior

Current vegetation patterns and fuel loadings have been greatly influenced by historic timber harvest practices. Extensive harvest has occurred in the fireshed, especially on the private timber lands. In stands that have been partial cut, fuels treatments were minimal. Combined with fire suppression activity that has allowed for stand densification and the resultant fuel loadings from harvest activities, there is an excess of dense stands of smaller trees and accumulations of highly flammable forest woody debris.

A majority of the fireshed is dominated by Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and White-fir at lower and mid-elevations, with true fir about 5,000' in elevation. White-fir is more abundant at mid-elevations and occupies more lower-elevation sites than historically. Many of the stands on south and west aspects historically dominated by pine currently contain a mix of conifer species and are often dominated by fir species. Species composition occupied by true fir (higher elevations) is not markedly different from historic conditions, however many of these stands are more densely stocked and contain heavier fuel loads as a result of fire suppression.

Fire has diverged from its historic behavior patterns and severity levels. Although ignitions still occur, fires are quickly suppressed. Fire suppression efforts have reduced the amount of burned area annually, resulting in a change in species composition, forest structure, and expected fire behavior. As a result, shade tolerant white fir is more abundant and has become established in the understory. This had created a ladder for surface fires to move into tree crowns.

With the available fuels and condition class, potential to control problems from established fires that would exhibit high rates of spread and intensities, should be expected. Dominant topographic features may need to be used in management of large incidents. Direct actions would most likely be successful only under optimal conditions.

Fuels treatments in the FMU have been minimal in the recent past, although a stewardship contract has been awarded in a portion of the Mt. Ashland LSR, with associated thinning and fuel treatments scheduled. The Klamath River Fire Safe Council has accomplished some vegetation removal around structures in the lower part of the drainage with minor roadside brushing of the main Beaver Creek road.

Fire History

Using the definition of a large fire as 100 acres or greater, it has been 50+ years since the last large fire in the Beaver FMU. The lower reaches of the fireshed, from the mouth of Beaver Creek up through the West Fork, including Buckhorn Bally and the Sterling Mountain area, was burned over extensively in 1955 by the Haystack fire. The Haystack fire started on the south side of the Klamath River and spotted across the river and spread rapidly up the drainage on both sides. This was a lightning ignited fire, the same storm started numerous other fires in the Beaver Creek drainage, some of which merged with the Haystack fire, or are separate fire patterns visible on the landscape today. These fires were extensively salvaged logged, and are manifested today in large tracts of even aged vegetation, evidenced by conifer plantations on the better growing sites.

While the Beaver FMU has high potential for large fire growth, suppression efforts are aided by the extensive road network due to the mixed ownership and industrial use of the area. Suppression forces have good access to this fireshed lending to aggressive responses, plus the large amount of private ownership, on lands used for timber extraction, results in close working partnerships with the timber company stakeholders. Any large fire management must include dialog and a close working relationship with these landowners.

3.2.3.2 Weather

The Beaver FMU is located in somewhat of a transitional area geographically, between the wetter west side and drier inland regions. Weather patterns trend to dry summers typical of the area, where periods of up to 90 days without rainfall are not uncommon. Rainfall averages approximately 20-30 inches per year, with snowpack's on the crest usually melting off by about July 1st.

Winds during high pressure periods are relatively light, local, and diurnal in nature. Higher winds are normally associated with frontal passages. These calm conditions can result in smoke inversions that may influence incident management, especially aviation operations. This is somewhat typical for the incised and poorly ventilated drainages in the regional area that is reflected in the Beaver FMU.

The Beaver FMU historically has one of the highest concentrations of lighting on the Klamath National Forest. This is depicted in an analysis of lightning fire density from the time period of 1922-2003. This shows the FMU as being a "lightning alley", with a thunderstorm pattern of development to the south, over the Scott Valley area, and tracking north through Beaver Creek and up into Sterling Mountain and the Siskiyou Crest. This is a common pattern usually seen several times a year.